

lost because he failed to win the all-important Independence line on the ballot. Trusso believes new district boundaries made it tougher for Teresi to win, and Teresi's inability to go door-to-door like he used to because of his health made it worse. And the younger Teresi believes his father lost in 2005 because he was facing an especially tough challenge from a qualified candidate.

Whatever the reason, Mrs. Hallquist said both she and her former opponent soon became friends.

"I only knew Mr. Teresi for a short time, and was blessed because of it," Mrs. Hallquist said, describing him as a gentle, powerful and inspirational man. "When he said 'thank you' and smiled, it inspired one to run out and accomplish more. To say that he will be greatly missed is the understatement of our community."

Ironically, some say this would probably have been his last term in office since his health had already begun to fail and he would not have been expected to run for reelection again this year. Richard Van Hise, who became friends with the elder Teresi through their work on the county Parks Commission, said his break from politics was well-deserved.

"I felt bad," Van Hise said, "but I talked to Sam (his son) and I said, 'It's just as well. Tony deserves to take a break and relax,' because the legislature was a lot of strain on him. And Sam agreed."

BEHIND THE SCENES

While serving on the Chautauqua County Legislature, Teresi was chairman of the Public Facilities Committee, and he is often credited with taking the politics out of decisions regarding what roads would be repaired at a time when politics reportedly played a big part in that process.

He is also credited with the early days of the proposal to construct a methane-fired power plant at the Chautauqua County Landfill, as well as his work on the project that resulted in the county taking over responsibility for all the bridges from French Creek to Hanover.

"People didn't hear too much about Tony, but he was the driving force in a lot of these projects that people don't know anything about," said Trusso, who frequently ate breakfast with both Teresi and their good friend, the late Fred Cusimano, a former county legislator who died in February 2006.

Teresi was also praised for his dedication to Chautauqua County parks, working on the Parks Commission beside Cusimano and Van Hise even after his legislative career came to a close.

In fact, less than two weeks ago, Van Hise was to preside over a ceremony during which a plaque was to have been dedicated in honor of Cusimano, after whom the Fred Cusimano Westside Overland Trail is named. A rainstorm forced Van Hise to reschedule the event, but Trusso and Teresi didn't get the message. They went out anyway, viewing the plaque by themselves and remembering their old friend.

County Legislator Richard Babbage, R-Bemus Point and another close friend of Teresi's, believes that may have been the last "official" act Teresi carried out.

"I've missed him the last two years," said Babbage, who was the ranking member of the Public Facilities Committee during Teresi's tenure as chairman. "Now that he's gone completely, I'm really going to miss him."

SPIRIT AND DEDICATION

Teresi was born in Sicily and emigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of 4, later graduating from Jamestown High School. In 1942, he hitchhiked to Buffalo and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, soon fight-

ing in the Pacific theater and returning to service during the Korean War, according to Trusso.

"That's the kind of spirit and the kind of dedication he had," said Trusso, himself a U.S. Air Force veteran. "He had public service in his veins. I guess he transferred that to his son."

Speaking with The Post-Journal by telephone late Tuesday, the younger Teresi said that he would never have expected his father to run for office back in 1989, believing his mother, the late Rose Teresi, would have been a better fit for politics.

"He wasn't a politician," the younger Teresi said of his father. "You could have knocked me over with a feather that night when he called me and told me he was going to run for the County Legislature."

After he left the service, the elder Teresi went to work managing various supermarkets like the former Loblaw's on East Second Street, and his son says that he was tougher then, better resembling the ex-Marine that he was.

"He made me and a lot of people better because of his high standards and expectations," the younger Teresi said.

But in later years, he could best be described the same way Mrs. Hallquist described him—as "gentle," according to County Legislator Sally Pullano, D-Fredonia.

"He was so very gentle—a gentleman in every sense of the word," she said.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Teresi was a man who fully understood how to live life to its fullest. He knew what the bonds of family meant and how to keep them strong and healthy. Mr. Teresi will be missed by his family and the people of Chautauqua County.

THE CENTENNIAL OF RIVIERA, TEXAS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my constituents in the south Texas area from Riviera, Texas, to Baffin Bay—including Vattmann and Loyola Beach—on their centennial anniversary on November 10, 2007.

Baffin Bay is one of the most celebrated—and secret—fishing spots along the Texas gulf coast. And Riviera is so named for the vision of its founder—Theodore Frederick Koch—who saw in it a similarity to the Riviera of France in the early 20th century.

When the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway was completed in 1904, this bit of south Texas land came on the market and caught the eye of Theodore Koch, a visionary land developer, who had immigrated from the Netherlands. The over-20,000 acre parcel of King Ranch land stretching from the railroad to Baffin Bay inspired Koch, who imagined a getaway in South Texas similar to the French Riviera.

Koch's plan was to develop two enclaves: Riviera and Riviera Beach. The two were first connected by a dirt road, then later by a boulevard from the town site 10 miles to the bay front, modeled after those in Pasadena, California, with the center planted with trees and colorful flower beds. The remnants of the Boulevard still stand today.

By 1910 a new bank building and a telephone system came online in the area. In

1912 Koch had a railroad line extended from Riviera and the futures of both Riviera and Riviera Beach looked bright. The train ran several times per month, bringing prospective land buyers and future residents.

But 1916 would bring both beauty and destruction. That year Riviera Beach had a park designed by a florist. The resort's infrastructure was excellent, but a 7-year drought put a major damper on the area's growth. A hurricane on August 16, 1916, nearly wiped Riviera Beach off the map. They rebuilt, but things were never the same.

Yet, Riviera was populated by survivors—whose ancestors had settled the American West. The families who remained built a future for their children and a legacy for future generations.

Like much of Texas, the soil was rich and artesian wells were plentiful in the area, so crops flourished and an extensive network of agricultural, fishing and vacation areas developed in and around the area.

One of my favorite restaurants, the world famous Kings Inn—where many of my colleagues have joined me for meals over the years—is located at Loyola Beach.

There is no small town in America today that better exemplifies victory of the American spirit over adversity, than Riviera to Baffin Bay, Texas. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the communities of Riviera, Riviera Beach, Vattmann and Loyola Beach, as they celebrate their centennial on November 10, 2007.

HONORING 4-H CAMP CLOVERLEAF ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf of Highlands County, Florida, on their 50th anniversary and commend them for all they have done over the past 50 years to educate Florida's children.

Since the camp was dedicated on June 19, 1957, more than 125,000 campers have learned the values of Florida's 4-H Foundation at the camp.

Organized by the Cooperative Extension System under the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, Florida's 4-H program encourages our youth to become active in their communities and teaches them leadership skills.

Campers at Camp Cloverleaf learn these skills and build lifelong friendships through various activities including team building, plant identification, canoeing, crafts, archery and other exercises and activities.

I would also like to honor the many dedicated volunteers, who have mentored Camp Cloverleafs youth over the past 50 years. Their knowledge and guidance helped make the camp a success.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending the 4-H Camp Cloverleaf on their 50th anniversary.